

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-14, 16-47, 49-51 and 53 remain in the application.

Claims 1,2, 4-9, 11-14, 16-31, 43-47, 49-51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hadba et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number US 2004/0203295). Claims 32-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadba et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following remarks.

Hadba et al. discloses a coupling device for a Serial ATA (SATA) hard disk drive 100 having a SATA connector 110. The coupling device comprises a second connector having a plurality of connector pins, where the SATA connector has a number of connector pins which is less than the number of pins of the second connector. The second connector provides a first and second SATA channel and a coupling unit 120 for coupling the first and second connector. The coupling unit comprises a multiplexer unit 121 for establishing a coupling of one of the SATA channels with the SATA drive or for establishing a loop back function by coupling the first and second SATA channel.

The Examiner has relied upon Habda et al. to disclose and render obvious the present invention as claimed. Specifically, the Examiner has relied on Habda et al. to show (Figures 1-6) an apparatus having a controller 130, a detector with detection circuitry 140 to detect coupling between a connector 150 on a board 160 and a connector 110 in a device 100, and to perform a shutdown in response to the coupling

condition. The Examiner has also asserted that it would have been obvious to include a plurality of packages including ball grid array package which are difficult to probe because it is enclosed within a metal can, because such features are allegedly well known in the art of electrical connectors.

The Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to include a plurality of packages including a ball grid array package which are difficult to probe. If the Examiner continues this assertion the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a reference that discloses such allegedly "well known features".

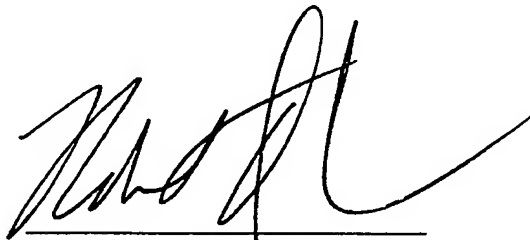
The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that Hadba et al. discloses at least features of the claimed invention of performing a shutdown of a system including a board and a device in response to a board coupling condition of the board and the device. Hadba et al. simply does not disclose (or even suggest) such a feature. The Examiner appears to be relying on backplane 160 to disclose the claimed board and on SATA drive 100 to disclose the claimed device. However, Hadba et al. does not disclose or suggest performing a shutdown of a system including backplane 160 and SATA drive 100 in response to a board coupling condition of the backplane 160 and SATA drive 100. If the Examiner continues the current rejections the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specifically point out the portion or portions of the Hadba et al. publication in which such a shutdown is allegedly disclosed.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections relied upon by the Examiner for at least the reasons set forth above. In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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